

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

VOL. VIII, No. 3

MARCH, 1929

*"Where weary folk toil, black with smoke,
And hear but whistles scream
I went, all fresh from dawn and dew,
To carry them a dream.
I went to bitter lanes, and dark,
Who once had known the sky,
To carry them a dream—and found
They had more dreams than I."*

—DAVIES

PRESIDENT STONEMAN TO BOSTON

On March first Mr. Albert H. Stoneman, President of the Child Welfare League of America, took up his new duties as headworker at South End House, a social settlement in Boston.

As General Secretary and State Superintendent of the Michigan Children's Aid Society, he has for years occupied an important and strategic position among the child welfare workers of the United States as well as of Michigan.

The staff and members of the Child Welfare League of America will wish Mr. Stoneman that kind of success in social settlement work which has characterized his service to dependent and neglected children.

Mr. Stoneman will continue to maintain an active interest in child welfare work. His term of office as President of the Child Welfare League of America does not expire until June, 1929, and we assume that his concern for children's work is too great to allow it to shrink much because of his change of vocation.

Mr. Stoneman announces that his successor as executive of the Michigan Children's Aid Society is Mr. Fred R. Johnson, whom we welcome into child welfare ranks.

THE OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The joint meeting of the Ohio Valley Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America and the Children's Division of the Ohio Welfare Conference was held in Cincinnati, February 7 and 8. More than 500 delegates from five states attended.

Miss E. Marguerite Gane's paper on "Boarding Home Care," and Mrs. Mabel Mattingly's description of the progress made by social agencies in handling children born out of wedlock, were outstanding contributions to the Conference.

(Continued on page 5, column 1)

INSTITUTION NEWS

A glimpse at children's institutions in Japan may be secured from *An Outline of Social Work in Japan*, published in 1922 by the Bureau for Social Work of the Home Dept. of the Japanese Government. Referring to the 122 institutions for children which were in operation at the end of the World War, it is reported that nursing children are all placed out in families.

"Those in the institutions are children of school age. Most of the institutions, realizing the evil results of a large system, are managed on a cottage plan. There are about ten children housed in one cottage. The children are usually sent to primary schools of the districts in which the institutions are located, but in the case of large asylums, they have primary schools of their own. They are given, besides school lessons, manual and farm training."

In December the California State Department of Social Welfare sent to the boards of directors of children's institutions in California the following new requirements, to become effective on January 1, 1929: The prohibition of third-floor dormitories in wooden buildings, physical examination of employees, and provision of adequate social case work for all children's institutions. The qualifications of training and experience required by the American Association of Social Workers will be regarded, in general, as satisfactory preparation for social workers to be employed by the institutions, and in no case will less than one social case worker to 100 children be considered adequate. (News Summary, U. S. Children's Bureau.)

The December issue of the Catholic Charities Review contains an article giving a preliminary report on the data secured regarding 191 discharges from two Catholic child-caring homes in different cities. Information was gathered by five field workers under the direction of the Rev. Dr. John O'Grady. The final manuscript was prepared by Miss Alice Padgett.

Data on how institutional children "turn out" are at the present time almost non-existent. Thus the effort which has been made to add to our knowledge on this subject is a valuable contribution to the whole children's field even though, as the author admits, it has

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

ADOPTION—A PERENNIAL TOPIC

J. PRENTICE MURPHY, Executive Secretary
Children's Bureau of Philadelphia

Early in December last year the New York *World* commented editorially on the predicament in which a reputable and well-known citizen of Massachusetts found himself. Brought up as an adopted child by a good family of which he was a devoted member, he passed on through various stages, graduating from college and later entering one of the professions.

During the World War he served overseas in the United States army. His record was distinguished, his duties being performed with fidelity and skill. With the war over, he returned to Massachusetts. Then followed marriage and a family of his own.

For years he had known that he was an adopted child, but that was all he did know. When he reached manhood he caused various searches to be made from time to time in an effort to discover something of his own social background. These searches were unsuccessful largely because of the fact that the child-caring institution which placed him for adoption had apparently made no inquiry at the time of their acceptance of him and made no effort to record in any detail even the little information which was evidently given to them by those who brought the little baby boy to the agency for care.

This lack of knowledge as to the past has come to have very serious consequences to this gentleman. When applying recently for a passport to visit Europe, unexpected difficulties were encountered. In view of the fact that he could not furnish definite and verifiable information as to when and where he was born and who his parents were, the Department of State ruled that therefore there was no evidence to prove that he had ever been born in the United States. Since a Boston children's institution received him as a very little boy, there can be little doubt that he was born in Massachusetts and very likely in the City of Boston. The denial of a passport was absolute and, I believe, still stands.

The New York *World* cited this as an evidence of a state of affairs which could and should be corrected through better public and private social welfare procedure in regard to all matters pertaining to the surrender of children for adoption.

The recommendations were excellent but it was evident that the writer of the editorial did not foresee any of the difficulties which would be encountered in carrying them out. In view of widespread practices in regard to adoption, it is not easy to eliminate the uncertainties which attend them. During the past two years, the metropolitan press of the country has fea-

tured about a round dozen of news stories showing how widespread are our neglects of good social welfare standards in regard to the surrender of children primarily of unmarried parents and the later placement of said children for adoption.

I was moved to answer some of the questions raised in the *World's* editorial and therefore wrote a letter which was published in full in the issue of December 26th. The letter stressed quite briefly the major obstacles encountered by those seeking to express good social case work for children in the adoption field. It was noted that unmarried parents needed above all things to be given a fair and just perspective on their particular situations. They should be protected against the quick formulation of plans and the quick surrender of their children at a time when physical weakness and fear made it difficult for them to exercise their best judgment. Otherwise they were inviting a train of misfortunes for their children and themselves which might last throughout their whole lives.

The publication of the letter had surprising results. It brought six inquiries from persons, all of good social standing, evidently possessed of more than average wealth, who in each instance indicated that they had been led or forced to a point where they had surrendered their children for adoption without first being given an opportunity to weigh all of the issues at stake. These inquirers made it clear that, while those that had advised them had done so with sincerity, they had nevertheless misstated or misinterpreted the probable future course of events. With the first rush of terror over, these mothers were questioning the decisions which they had made and which had resulted in the giving up of their children, most of them without hope of return. The facts are not at hand to show that in any given instance it would have been possible for the mother or father to have kept his child. But this one fact is clear, that, in each given situation, there was need of a type of social case work for lack of which the mothers at least were approaching the future with the deepest apprehension and doubt.

Where inexperienced and prejudiced people are permitted on the basis of superficial knowledge or the presence of fear to sever blood ties, there are created problems before which in later years the most experienced, imaginative and resourceful social workers stand in utter helplessness.

LET'S MEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

The National Conference of Social Work meets in San Francisco, June 26 to July 3, 1929. Plan to go. The Child Welfare League of America will hold three public meetings.

BOARDING HOME CARE

FIELD EQUIPMENT, SAFEGUARDS, LIMITATIONS

MISS E. MARGUERITE GANE

Children's Aid Society, Buffalo, N. Y.

The following quotations present only some of the points covered by Miss Gane in her address given at the Ohio Valley Regional Conference of the Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

"Any believers in the child-placing system must accept the hypothesis that family life is desirable. So long as the best and wisest of parents prefer the individual family unit for their children, we, in loco parentis, should provide it for ours." * * *

"When we started our placement work in Buffalo, it was in a highly developed institutional community. The only child-placing that was being done was in the public department of the County, and was supported by a Board of Supervisors, many of whom were not in sympathy with the use of foster homes, and refused to provide an adequate staff or to pay as much board to the foster mothers as they did to the institutions. As many of the public charges were in institutions as in foster homes.

"Our own Board had more faith in our Executive Secretary than in the plan. They knew nothing about it. How could we meet the kind of tasks child-placing now involves without developing along with the work the complete confidence and intelligent support of our Board? Because we believed that the community had to be prepared for the absorption into it of our work, our program has given first place to this aspect, beginning with circular letters to the clergy and the school principals, describing our aims, continuing in various forms and including a visiting day on which members of the Children's Division of the Council were motored around to call on foster mothers. Between twenty-five and thirty homes were visited by about forty social workers, in groups of four. Our foster mothers unanimously volunteered to open their homes for 'the good of the cause,' as they put it. Our Board members helped pass sandwiches at our foster mothers' meetings, and we find them much better educated by the foster parents themselves, than by the visitors." * * *

"Perhaps next in importance to preparation of the community is the preparation of the homes. The question, 'How can you get the right people; no one would want to board children unless they wanted the money?' and similar statements, place the inquirers in the early Victorian era in regard to actual knowledge of child welfare work. Experience in various parts of the country has shown that good homefinders can get foster homes from among the finest people in the community. It is merely a question of deciding what kind of folks you want, and then approaching them in the right way. We never have advertised in the newspapers. We want very special homes where Mary can get intelligent guidance with her personality difficulties, or Jimmie can be given mercury rubs, or baby Doris' mother can find a real home life (including meals) on her Thursdays and Sundays off, and these are not the ones who answer advertisements, but have to be sought out and interested in specific missionary jobs. A

majority of our foster parents are church school teachers, mothers' club members, 'old families' in the small towns, a number of young school teachers' mothers, trained nurses who have married and missed their professional contacts. When once a nucleus is built up, the best homes come through the recommendations of the 'inner circle,' the foster mothers themselves." * * *

"What about prepared visitors—excellent case workers, familiar with and enthusiastic about the objectives of their program, lovers of children and with executive ability to accomplish results through the medium of the foster parents, making their own supervision inconspicuous. A visitor must be capable of handling, for example, a non-support case where a father has to be brought into court; an orthopedic case where the foster mother must be taught to give daily exercises of a very delicate nature; a behavior problem which has been turned over to her because no institution would keep the child; an unmarried mother case where the girl's parents are insistent upon making a public example of the boy by having him expelled from medical school. A visitor's job is not riding around the country paying social calls. Our workers have to become familiar with the procedure in eight different courts. Our children are not the gentle orphans and dependents of twenty-five years ago. In these days homes are not broken up until serious problems arise and serious problems need expert attention.

"Case loads are dangerous things to talk about. While our public visitors have from 100 to 200 children a piece, our own visitors have thirty-five, and work overtime. It is true that most of our children are behavior problems or unplaceable children, referred to us as a last resort, or babies of unmarried mothers or broken families, which a visitor is attempting to piece together, but the actual fact about case loads is that the more time we spend on a child or a family, the more closely do we get into the real problems and the more we see to do." * * *

"Good supervision of visitors has a special value, not from the point of view of overseeing or checking, but for guiding the choices mentioned above, and for stimulation and the spread of new ideas from one worker to another. Visiting is not a specific job: it is taking a hand with the art of living. Any art is creative and the artist needs the experiences and the inspiration of his co-artists. The leadership and understanding encouragement must come from the supervisors who not only must be able workers themselves, but selected and trained for the special responsibilities they inherit. Because we feel so keen about the supervisors' importance we recently divided our entire case work staff into small units of three or four and assigned to each a field worker who seems to have qualities of leadership, who will spend one-half time in the field and the other half in learning to supervise the other members of his or her group.

"Flexible board rates are one of the greatest aids in homefinding. Mrs. So and So might take Annie as a companion for her own little girl if clothing could be provided. On the other hand, her cousin, who was a nurse, would make a wonderful home for infant Tommie, who has asthma, if we could pay her \$7 or \$8 a week, so that she could afford to have her washing sent

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
1st Vice-President—J. PRENTICE MURPHY, Philadelphia
2d Vice-President—REV. M. L. KESLER, Thomasville, N. C.
3d Vice-President—MRS. LESSING ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
Secretary—MISS JESSIE P. CONDIT, Newark
Treasurer—JOSEPH E. BOLDING, Corn Exchange Bank, New York
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS

This BULLETIN, published monthly (omitted in July and August)
 Annual subscription, \$1.00 Single Copies, 10c.

out and a woman one day a week to do the heavy work. A rigid board rate is almost as intelligent as the old outdoor relief allowance of two dollars per week and a quarter of a ton of coal per family. We know we can't pay for what we get but we try to make it possible for people to do what they could not afford to do without a little assistance." * * *

Discussing purposes, Miss Gane says: "As in all case work, the development of the personalities of our clients heads the list, or in Dr. Lapp's words, 'The opportunity to rise according to his abilities without any one barring the way.'"

"Dr. Ernest Groves, in discussing the changed aspects of the family life of today, writes that although we shall have to look to the community more and more for things that once were family functions (such as education, religion, general health, etc.), there are four fundamental functions of family life remaining. The first is interpretation of experience; the second, the power to direct the child; the third, the providing of stimulation, and fourth, fellowship. We venture to add a 'sense of continuity.'

"The phrase 'development of personality' is so general it may become practically useless. Sometimes we split it into three parts and talk about three chief factors which influence it. First, the influence of the organic make-up; second, the influence of the environment, and third, the influence of such vague but important things as stability—a feeling of permanency—a 'center of gravity.' The influence of the organic make-up is illustrated by Jennie, who did not play well with other children. It was suggested that she was anti-social because she asked to be placed where there were no other children. She finally confided to her visitor that 'the kids made fun of my big nose,' thereby revealing that she was particularly sensitive to the opinion of others. The influence of the environment, of course, includes such things as habit formation, stimulation of the mind, the control of the emotions, etc. The third, the developing in the foster parents a sense of permanent responsibility for the child, has a direct bearing on the replacement problem.

"The position that the preservation of the original family group is desirable is quite widely accepted; hence the increase in means and methods to provide for this through the establishment of mothers' allowances, etc. This goes back again to the necessity of having first-class investigators, resourceful and trained in family case work, on the staff of the child-placing agen-

cies, or else an arrangement whereby all applications for the placement where both parents are living, where economic pressure seems to be the basis of the request, where desertion of one parent is a factor, etc., should be turned over to the family societies for study before acceptance is decided upon." * * *

"Dr. Reeder, in last month's *Survey*, writes an article about the distribution of children between institutions and foster homes, and we hope he will not mind being quoted in the conclusion to a paper on boarding home care.

"First of all, let me say that the central theme and point of departure is the child himself, and his rights. All methods must center about the child and his family rather than the means provided for his care. He has the right to be well born. Over this, however, we have so far but little control. After birth his first inalienable right is to be mothered. Mother, home and family nurture are his natural heritage. The family is our basic unit and the highest product of social evolution. It is ideal for all children, and fortunately that ideal is realized for the vast majority. Any sound program of child welfare whatever must be built around the family.

"Mother love, family kinship consciousness, brother and sister attachments, are built up in these early years and continue to be the cherished relations, memories and background of adult life.

"Except in rare instances, to deprive little children of the natural heritage is a social disaster."

INSTITUTION NEWS

(Continued)

not been possible to isolate factors and to measure results with entire success.

The important thing is that initiative has been taken in the direction of trying to determine what influences a stay of several years in an institution actually has on children.

"We have pointed to tendencies in development," the author states, "but shall not venture to draw conclusions. There are fair indications that the 138 boys included in the study are measuring up to the ordinary standards of adult manhood. A later check-up on this same group would give a truer picture of their adjustments.

"It would seem that the 53 girls had had too limited opportunities for work. The facts seem to point to a need for more intensive vocational training and advisement for both boys and girls. We must remember, however, that most of the subjects under consideration came along in a time when modern methods of institutional intake, institutional training and institutional follow-up were not so crystallized.

"Finally, in general I believe we may say that the outlook for the 191 children considered in this survey is hopeful."

League's Conference Headquarters, Hotel Clift, San Francisco. Make reservations now!

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

At the dinner meeting on Thursday night greetings of Cincinnati were extended to the delegates by Major Murray Seasongood. Judge John R. Coffin, Wapakoneta, President of the Children's Division of the Ohio Welfare Conference, responded in behalf of the delegates. Roger K. Rogan, general chairman of the Cincinnati Committee, presided. H. H. Griswald, Ohio's newly appointed Director of Public Welfare, spoke briefly on the subject of interpreting social work to the lay person.

Mr. Carstens gave the principal address of the evening meeting, discussing family life and the obligation which social agencies should feel to conserve its values in spite of the disturbing influences to be found in American life today.

The round tables and luncheon meetings were well attended and stimulating.

PRESENT PROGRAM OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CLEVELAND, OHIO

LAWRENCE C. COLE, Executive Secretary

The Children's Aid Society has already several times in the past adapted its program to meet the changing community needs of children. Starting as an industrial school in 1854, it early developed into an institution for care of dependent children. Under the influence of the Eastern movement among children's aid societies, it was one of the earliest institutions in greater Cleveland to develop child placing. Again in 1921 a change was made in the program from the long time institutional care to the present program of mental health study service for children. These transfers of function from those which were needed in the earlier days into becoming the only study home for children in Cleveland are typical of the transformation which is occurring in many institutions in other communities. The Children's Aid Society has been fortunate in its leadership which has been willing to modify its program to meet changing conditions.

The Cleveland Children's Aid Society is unique among children's aid societies in the country in the type of program it has developed. In view of its present institutional plant, every effort is being made to utilize its facilities to the very best advantage in community planning for larger groups of children.

At the present time the Children's Aid Society is being operated on a cooperative basis among three groups of children's agencies. Matters of institutional care and service are the direct responsibility of the Children's Aid Society Board of Trustees and Lady Managers. The matron is primarily responsible for the management of the institution proper. There are two major types of service rendered, one of which is called

the Receiving Home Service and the other the Staff Service.

At present ten beds are assigned for staff service to the Child Guidance Clinic for the observation and treatment of its difficult and problem children. To be eligible for admission, the children must present behavior or personality problems of such character that a period of professional observation and treatment is desirable. So far as possible, admissions to this service are determined by the results of examination either as out-patients or in the Receiving Home. Many of these children are the responsibility of other agencies and are among cases worked on by the Clinic in cooperation with other social agencies. Many of these children stay fairly long periods, possibly averaging three months or better.

Thirty beds are assigned to the Children's Bureau for Receiving Home service and admissions to these beds are the responsibility of the Children's Bureau staff worker, Miss Norris. To be eligible for admission to these beds, the problem must be primarily one of dependency, requiring placement outside of the home of parents or relatives of the child. At present in the Receiving Home beds three kinds of children are being admitted. First, the purely emergency cases, where in dire emergency children must be cared for, but these are removed as soon as possible without special study. This emergency group is being kept down to the lowest possible minimum. Another group are the children in institutions who have proven problems and in need of special mental health study. Likewise, this group includes the children in the various homes of the Humane Society and the other child-placing agencies who have failed to properly adjust and for whom study is needed before replacement. More and more all children from institutions before placement in foster homes are being studied here. Another group which it is hoped can continuously grow larger is the new group coming under care of the various children's agencies for the first time, where through mental health study the best plans for the future of these children can be determined. Through this particular service, it is hoped in time on the basis of the study of each individual child to determine in the future whether this particular child should be allocated to an institution or to a foster home. Through this kind of study, available in few other cities, it is hoped to develop the proper plan for individual children and a better use of our community facilities. Low-grade feeble-minded children, children under four years of age and certain other groups are not admitted. It is hoped the Receiving Home children can be studied and moved on in fairly short length of time, twenty-one days being the hoped-for stay.

(Continued on next page)

Thus the Child Guidance Clinic Staff provides the mental health study of dependent cases admitted to the Receiving Home Service. This, of course, includes the various mental tests by the psychologist, an examination by the psychiatrist and the consideration in the Child Guidance Clinic Staff of the recommendations for treatment. On the basis of all of these facts, social, medical and mental, recommendations are made to the agencies interested in the suggested plan for care.

The Children's Bureau Medical Clinic Staff is responsible for the medical examination, care and treatment for both staff and Receiving Home children. Dr. Nourse visits regularly and through his examinations supplies the medical facts to the Child Guidance Clinic for their studies. He, likewise, is responsible for detection and control of all contagion and sickness in the institution, a problem which was very serious last year when the place was tied up for long periods. It is the hope that the new reception ward, now housed in the old hospital, will prevent the quarantine previously prevalent. There is a close coordination between the Children's Aid Society Medical Service and the Children's Bureau Medical Clinic at Lakeside Dispensary, since frequently the same children within a brief period contact both places. Dental service on all children here is usually completed by the Children's Aid Society dentist before discharge.

BOOK REVIEWS

CULTIVATING THE CHILD'S APPETITE. Charles Anderson Aldrich, M.D. Macmillan Co. 1928. 127 pp. \$1.75.

Dr. Aldrich as attending physician of the Children's Memorial Hospital of Chicago has had a large experience with children who show abnormal attitudes with reference to hunger and the appetites for food. This small book aims to consider the relation of hunger and appetite to each other, the part they play in the development of the child's physical condition, and the many physiological and psychological factors that enter into the development of bad eating habits and their cure. The social worker in a discussion of this subject has to learn a few new terms. "Anorexia" means poor appetite; by "habitus" we mean the natural build of the child—slender or stocky; and "negativism" is that attitude of the child which makes him want to do everything that parent, doctor, nurse or friend does not want him to do.

The book is especially valuable for social worker or parent who is dealing with the abnormal habits of normal children, and especially those relating to the hunger-appetite reflex.

It is interesting to find medical specialists differing radically on subjects that lay social workers seem to re-

gard as quite settled. As, for instance, Dr. Aldrich states: "Milk is almost, not quite, an essential in the feeding of nurslings. Its necessity, however, decreases with the age of the child, so that by the second year it is less important, and, in exceptional cases, it can even be largely dispensed with. It is sometimes necessary to nourish even babies without milk. Milk is a desirable food for all children whose appetites are good, but it is not sufficient as a complete diet after five or six months." He also questions the advisability of giving the child a glass of milk between meals and advises, if something seems to be needed, fruit or orange juice.

His chapter on "Prevention" cannot help but be of the greatest value to all parents. Although the author states that the cure is a simple one, we would advise parent or foster parent to consult an expert on the treatment of the established case.—C. C. C.

"How to Adopt a Child," with a list of reliable agencies, is the title of a monograph by Frances Lockridge and published by *Children, The Magazine for Parents*. (Price, 25 cents.) The list of agencies is compiled from the Directory of Member Agencies of the Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

Prospective foster parents will find "How to Adopt a Child" helpful in answering many of the questions that naturally arise in considering adoption of foster children.

A YEAR BOOK OF SOCIAL WORK

Social work is to join the other groups whose progress is recorded in its own year book, to be issued by the Russell Sage Foundation under the editorship of Fred S. Hall of its staff. That there is demand for information each year about social work is shown by the space given to it in the three comprehensive annuals now issued—the American Year Book, the New International Year Book and the American Annual. Taken together, they print articles on thirty-two different national organizations in the field of social work, and additional articles on forty-two topics in that field. The new year book, besides including such organizations and topics, and giving them a more uniformly adequate treatment from the standpoint of social work, will cover also many fields of activity which do not appear in these general annuals at all.

Until the appointment of an advisory board to assist in the new annual, details have not been announced. The general suggestion has been made, however, that two kinds of articles be included: about each national organization, its history, the services it is prepared to render, the character of its publications, its periodicals, if any, or its directory of local affiliated agencies; and about each field of social work, the history of that field

being briefly sketched with an account of the developments of the year as shown by changes in methods of work, new emphases, laws enacted during the year, books and articles published, and the like.

The Russell Sage Foundation will welcome suggestions from any who have had difficulty in obtaining needed current information concerning their own or allied fields of work.

To the new project, the editor, Mr. Hall, brings a varied experience. After graduate work in Columbia University in economics, sociology and statistics, from which institution he received the degree of Ph.D. in 1900, he was engaged in child-labor campaigns in New York State and later in Pennsylvania, in reorganizing programs of civic reform in connection with the City Club of New York, and in settlement work in New York and Newark. Since 1911, his field has been that of research for the Russell Sage Foundation, being associated in that work with Mary E. Richmond.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

(All League's books and pamphlets are loaned to members.)

(Some of these books will be reviewed in later issues of the BULLETIN.)

"A Doctor's Letters to Expectant Parents," Dr. Frank Howard Richardson, \$1.75, and

"If Parents Only Knew," Elizabeth Cleveland, \$1.75. Published by "Children, The Parents' Magazine," 255 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

"Laws of Pennsylvania Relating to Social Work," John S. Bradway, 1929, 261 pp. Published by the Public Charities Assn. of Penna.

"Proving Probation," the 1928 Proceedings of the National Probation Association, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York, N. Y., \$1.00, 413 pp.

"Reconstructing Behavior in Youth," William Healy, Augusta Bronner, Edith M. H. Baylor, J. Prentice Murphy, 1929, \$3.25. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

"Serving the Child in Fargo," Bulletin No. 9, Part three of the final report of the Fargo demonstration. 1928, 127 pp. Published by Commonwealth Fund, Division of Publications, 578 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

"Social Work and the Training of Social Workers," Sydnor H. Walker, 1928, 238 pp., \$2.00. Published by The University of North Carolina Press.

"Social Problems of Childhood," Paul Hanly Furfey, Ph.D. 1929, 288 pp., \$2.25. Published by The Macmillan Co. New York.

"The Child and the World," Margaret Naumberg, 1928, 323 pp., \$3.50. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York.

"The Child in America," William I. Thomas and Dorothy Swaine Thomas, 1928, 583 pp., \$5.00. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York.

"The Social Worker," Louise C. Odencrantz, 1928, 250 pp., \$2.50. Published by Harper Bros., New York.

"Training Children," William H. Pyle, Ph.D., 1929, 206 pp., \$1.75. The Century Co., New York.

Pamphlets published by the Child Study Association of America, 54 West 74th Street, New York, N. Y.

"A Selected List of Books for Parents and Teachers," 25 cents postpaid.

"Parents' Questions—My Child Will—My Child Won't—What Shall I Do?" 25 cents postpaid.

"Development—Methods—Techniques," 75 cents postpaid.

MARY E. RICHMOND

is recognized as the pioneer of the family case work field and the inspiration of case workers in other fields the world over.

The February, 1929, issue of "The Family" was prepared in her honor. There has been no attempt to give a full and rounded picture of her life: some of her friends have simply given us a picture of her as they knew her—reflecting the variety of her interests and the many phases of her influence. A most interesting and valuable issue.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

Folder describing the work of the Cleveland Humane Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

Announcement of awards for social work publicity by the Harmon Foundation in co-operation with The Social Work Publicity Council.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

MICHIGAN.—"Michigan Children's Aid Society, Detroit." Albert H. Stoneman, General Secretary and State Superintendent, resigned. Succeeded by Fred R. Johnson.

VIRGINIA.—"Virginia Children's Home Society," Richmond. Moved to 1121 Bank Street.

NEW MEMBERS

WISCONSIN.—State Public School, Sparta. C. D. Lehman, superintendent. (This organization was admitted just in time to be included in the 1929 Directory. Therefore this does not require a change in the Directory.)

(Continued from page 8, column 2)

tion has increased because of public opinion and the need of a home for the child. Contributing causes are the same, in addition, the automobile and more freedom, result in more license. The public is recognizing the problem more openly and sympathetically.

We feel that the Conference has been of value in helping to raise case standards, that cases are not decided on individual merits and that the baby is receiving more consideration. Organizations in Massachusetts are now working for legislation to provide an investigation for the probate judge on every prospective adoption.

**INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON
ILLEGITIMACY
BULLETIN**

**COMPILATION FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
BOSTON CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY**

By RACHEL M. LAWTON, Secretary

Our last year's program showed a marked interest in the question of adoptions. This undoubtedly was stimulated by the preliminary report in May, 1927, of Miss Ida R. Parker on her study of adoptions. She asks, "Shall we have investigations of adoptions made at the courts through the Board of Public Welfare?"

In the past year, therefore, the Boston Conference has discussed the following subjects: Safeguarding Adoptions. The Unmarried Father. Is There a Place for an Adoption Agency in Boston? A Comparison of Present Policies with Those of Ten Years Ago.

The program was opened with a talk by Dr. Foster Kellogg, affiliated with the Florence Crittenton Home and the Boston Lying-In-Hospital on "A Program for Safeguarding Adoptions." He estimates that due to disease, mentality of the mother, and the fact that some girls prefer to keep their children, about 35 per cent of all illegitimate children are suitable for adoption. Adoptions should be regulated by institutions or groups who know the principals involved, as too many individuals are putting through adoptions for sentimental reasons; because of the methods there are to kill the baby; because of adoptions done by casual courts, judges, and physicians; and adoptions engineered by the mother, relatives, and friends, with inadequate investigation on both sides. He recommends: An open history of the mother, including Wassermann, psychological size-up; Social history of the father as far as obtainable, especially education, earning capacity, health, and if married or not; An open record of the baby, including the manner of birth injuries, Wassermann, opinion of pediatrician, as well as examination by physician in whom the adoptive parents have faith; investigation of adoptive parents, including religious belief, general habits of life, possible earning capacity, credit (investigated separately from their own statements), and data from the churches with which they may be connected. The mother should have all data on adoptive parents.

Dr. Kellogg felt that the answer to this great problem of illegitimacy lies in the correlation of problems dealing with it through a form of clearing house running an adoption index and having control of adoptions. This might also be a solution to the better type of illegitimate pregnancies.

The superintendent of a maternity home said that

she had found but ten girls who did not want their babies and felt six months to two years should be given a girl before making definite plans.

It was reported that the Massachusetts law requires that a child be placed for adoption, although foundlings can be so placed immediately. The State Department's policy is a trial placement of a year. A girl is not in condition to decide two weeks after confinement; also a child's mentality and tendency is much better determined at two years.

One probation officer with seventy-five unmarried fathers finds men of foreign birth take a more real interest in the baby than American-born men, and says we must not generalize with the unmarried father any more than we do with the mother.

A hospital worker cited cases of successful adoptions of children of superior mothers. These had been done at the age of a few weeks, and the mothers returned to their former occupations. She raised the following questions: Must the mother keep the child regardless of circumstances? Should we not consider each individual case? Should legal adoption be allowed through the court when the child is taken or should there be a probationary period? Can the Conference do something to safeguard adoptions?

In March we discussed the question of an adoption agency in Boston with reports on similar agencies elsewhere. It was said the attitude of the social agency in knowing only of the poor adoptions has made the opening for the adoption agency. The well-organized social agency is better equipped to handle adoptions, but the question is whether the same type who apply at the adoption agency would apply at the social agency, and whether such an agency would safeguard all adoptions. Must the children's agencies expand and how far should they swing toward adoptions?

In April a Committee reported on a comparison of present policies concerning illegitimacy with those of ten years ago. Twenty-one out of twenty-five agencies answered. It was found that: Mothers are not nursing as long, due to physical and economic reasons. Convalescent care is prolonged. Prenatal care has resulted in lowering the maternal and infant death rate. There is difficulty in placing infectious girls. Mental examinations are not routine. Psychiatrists are giving more intelligent recommendations. Mothers are separated from their babies due to difficulty in finding employment other than housework, and there is little change in their occupation. Unmarried mothers are now found to be both younger and older and more educated. The public infirmary only gets the poorer type of girl. There is a slight increase in the prosecution of the man. Adop-

(Continued on page 7, column 2)